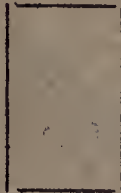


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Ringwood Rural District Council.
Sanitary Authority.



Annual Report

for the year ending
December 31st, 1925,
by the

Medical Officer of Health
to the Ringwood Union.



Brown & Son, Printers, Ringwood.



ANNUAL REPORT

for Year ending
December 31st, 1925.

Physical Features

The Town of Ringwood lies in the Valley of the Avon, and is situated on a gravelly subsoil, and being practically on a level with the river, the subsoil water is very near the surface, a point of importance, owing to the fact that the town and district depend upon shallow wells for their water supply. Except during a very dry season there is always an ample sufficiency. The subject of a general water supply is, I believe, still under consideration.

Occupation of Inhabitants

With the exception of an Ironworks, employing about 100 men, and a laundry employing a few men and women, the population is chiefly agricultural.

Area and Population

35,546 acres. The population in the census, estimated to the middle of 1921, was 7,320. The estimated population for 1925 was :—For births and deaths, 7,510.

The number of births and deaths are corrected for inward and outward transfers, and therefore differ slightly from the figures compiled locally.

Poor Relief

Out Relief for the year 1925 amounted to £1251 5s. 1d. Hospitals and other gratuitous medical relief are freely used. The Hospitals chiefly supplying the same being the different branches of the Bournemouth and West Hants Hospital. The Tuberculosis dispensaries supplying the district are also freely used.

Birth Rate

18.4 per 1,000.

There were 139 births ; 77 males and 62 females, all except one being born in the area.

12 births were illegitimate.

Death Rate

12.1 per 1,000.

90 deaths occurred during the year. Of these, 38 deaths were males and 52 females. Thirty-three were 70 years of age or over. Thirteen were under 1 year of age, 10 legitimate, 3 illegitimate.

Infantile Death Rate

93.5 per 1,000 of birth rate.

Tuberculosis

Eleven deaths were registered, 6 of these occurring at the Linford Sanatorium.

Cancer

Seven deaths occurred, all females.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

42 notifications were received during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—23 cases were reported during the year. 18 cases were treated in the Salisbury Isolation Hospital. Disinfection of the houses after removal or at the termination of the case was carried out.

Diphtheria.—Two cases were reported, and disinfection carried out. One case was treated at home and one at Salisbury.

Chicken Pox.—10 cases were reported.

Erysipelas.—Five cases were reported, one ending fatally.

Ophthalmia.—No cases notified.

Typhoid.—No cases reported.

Influenza Pneumonia.—No cases reported.

Small Pox.—The number of persons obtaining exemption certificates against vaccination of their children in this district is most regrettable.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the County Medical Officer at Winchester and have been of very great assistance. The County Medical Officer also sends down one of his Officers, when requested to, to assist in diagnose and take bacteriological specimens and swabs from patients.

Notice of infectious diseases occurring amongst children attending the elementary schools is sent me by the County Medical Officers and the School Teachers.

A supply of Anti-diphtheretic serum is kept and is accessible at all times.

There has been no reason to enforce the regulations concerning the notification of Tuberculosis disease and the Tuberculosis Dispensaries are used freely and with great appreciation by the public. Disinfection is carried out after the death of a patient or after removal of a patient to a Sanatorium when thought advisable.

Maternity and child welfare is attended to by the County Health Visitors.

Venereal Disease.—Very few cases have occurred or come for treatment in this district, those that have, have been sent to the Boscombe Clinic, with good results in each case.

General provisions for Health Services in the area

Hospitals provided or subsidized by Local Authority or by the County Council :—

Tuberculosis :—These are provided by the County Council.

Maternity and Children :—None.

Fever :—The Salisbury Isolation Hospital reserve ten beds for the Council at an annual retaining fee of £10 per bed, such retaining fee to be placed against the cost of maintenance of any case sent by the Council.

The present charge for maintenance is 7/6 per diem.

Small Pox :—The County Council have made arrangements for any case that may occur to be sent to Winchester, Basingstoke or Aldershot.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers or illegitimate children.

Homeless children are boarded out by the council.

Ambulance Facilities :—

- (a) For infectious cases an ambulance is sent from Salisbury.
- (b) For non-infectious cases and accidents no ambulance is provided.

Professional Nursing in the Home :—

- (a) General. A District Nurse supported by voluntary contributions.
- (b) For infectious cases. None.

*Midwives :—*None.

*Clinics and Treatment Centres :—*None provided by the Local Authority.

There is an Infant Welfare Centre run by a local Committee.

*Tuberculosis :—*Cases are sent when necessary to different Sanatoriums by the County Medical Officer, or treated at the Tuberculosis Dispensaries at Brockenhurst and Fordingbridge.

*Venereal Disease :—*Cases are treated at the Clinic at the Bournemouth and West Hants Hospital.

Public Health Staff

Charles E. Blackstone, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.O.H., Part Time.
Elias Kitney, M. Inst. M. and Cy. E., and M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector part time.

List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force in the District

Section 44 of Public Health Act, 1875,	adopted July 30th, 1878.
Section 171 (2) ,, ,, ,,	December, 1879.
Sections 155 and 156 ,, ,, ,,	April, 1887.
Section 157 and 158 ,, 1875 }	December, 1901
Sub-Sec. (i) (ii) (4) of Sec. 23 1890 }	

with certain exceptions.

Investing District Council with powers of—

Sec. 42 and 160 of Public Health Act, 1875, adopted April, 1895.

Water Supply

The Water Supply of which generally speaking there is a plentiful supply, is drawn from deep and shallow wells. The subject of a water supply for the town is, I believe, still under consideration.

Several samples of water from suspected wells have been tested, and where defects have been found, notice has been served on the Landlords to have the wells cleaned or other defects remedied.

New Wells

42 new wells have been sunk during the year.

Rivers and Streams

These are periodically cleared of weeds, which lessens the liability of flooding of the low lying parts of the district, but I would recommend that the shallows in the River should be cleared and the hatches upon the South side of the town be enlarged. In my opinion better attention should be paid to the clearing and cleaning of the contributory streams.

Drainage and Sewage

A system of slop water drainage is adopted for the Town, this is diverted into settling tanks to dissect the sludge from the effluent. The latter passes through a coke filter before it enters the river.

This appears to work well and give satisfactory results. In case of fire the slop water from this drain mixed with water from the in-flow at the head of the drain, which is pumped from different manholes is used. This is in my opinion unsatisfactory and detrimental and I recommend that other means of water supply for this purpose should be considered and adopted as soon as possible. Cesspools are the only means of sewage where water closets are used, these are emptied by the Local Authority on request, a reasonable charge being made.

Gloset Accommodation

The earth closet system is generally adopted throughout the district. The pails are removed at night at least twice a week (within the lighting area of the town) and disinfected when empty by men employed by the Council.

For this purpose a well covered in, horse drawn cart is provided. The soil is carried to a farm, situated about a mile outside the Town. It is there tipped into bays, deoderized by the burnt ashes produced from burning the collected house refuse and lime and then used for agricultural purposes.

Scavenging

The house refuse is collected four days in each week, by men employed by the council and conveyed to a tip near the night soil tip and burnt.

The receptacles used in a very great number of cases are most unsuitable and unsatisfactory.

I should be glad to see some measures taken to enforce the use of water-tight covered bins.

Tins and other refuse are collected once a month and disposed of in a disused gravel pit outside the Town, and disinfectant powder is now used to deoderize.

Sanitary Inspection of District

The Sanitary work is very ably carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who makes periodical inspections of houses, cowsheds, etc., and gives prompt attention to all complaints and matters requiring his services. All possible support should be given in enforcing the usual repairs needed to cottages when reported by him. Classified statement appended.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws Act

See Table V Hants County Council, appended.

Schools

All the Schools are periodically inspected and appear to be in a satisfactory and sanitary condition. Attention should be paid to the playground of the Church Schools, which in wet weather becomes to a very great extent flooded.

The Schools are closed when any serious epidemic disease occurs.

The work of the School Medical Officers is showing very good results, which would, in my opinion, be very greatly increased if the cases excluded from the school by them, could be followed up.

Food

The Milk supply is good and produced locally. The arrangements for the supply thereof adequate. 97 dairies, cowsheds and milk shops were inspected during the year. Three defects were reported by the Sanitary Inspector, all of which were put in order. There has been no case of Tuberculose milk brought to my notice.

Milk (Mothers and Childrens) Order, 1918

Milk is supplied by the Council or through the Health Visitors of the County Medical Officer in all necessitous cases.

Other Foods

The bake houses and slaughter houses have been inspected periodically and one defect reported abated. There is no public abattoir in the district.

Sale of Food and Drug Act

Periodical inspections and taking of samples are carried out by the County Medical Officer's Inspector and cases found dealt with.

Housing

Number of new houses erected during 1925 :—

(a)	Total (including numbers given under (b)	47
(b)	With Government Grant	37
	By Local Authority	2
	By other persons	8

Overcrowding

Number of overcrowded houses in the district, 2, both abated.

Fitness of Houses

The general standard of fitness of houses in the district is fair.

Conditions, so far as they effect houses, as regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal have been referred to before.

Byelaws for Houses, Lodging Houses, Tents, Vans, etc., do not exist.

CHARLES E. BLACKSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health to the
Ringwood Rural District Council.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
year 1925, for the Rural District of Ringwood**
on the administration of the Factory & Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces—

		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories	... ..	2	—	—
Workshops	... ..	22	—	—

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces—

			Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	... ..	...	3	3
Other nuisances	... ..	...	2	2
Sanitary accommodation	... ..	...	1	1

CHARLES E. BLACKSTONE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Ringwood Rural District Sanitary Administration.
Summary of Sanitary Work done during year 1925.

			Number of Inspections	No. of defects found	Abatement Notices s'rv'd	Nuisances abated	Unabated
Dwelling Houses	... ..	...	59	15	7	15	
Foul Conditions	... ..	...			
Structural defects	... ..	...			
Overcrowding	... ..	...	2	2	2	2	
Unfit for habitation	.. ..	...	2	2	2	2*	
Dairies and Milkshops	... ..	...	46				
Cowsheds	... ..	...	51	3		3	
Bakehouses	... ..	...	9				
Slaughter Houses	... ..	...	24	1		1	
Ashpits and Privies	.... ..	...	18				
Deposit of Refuse and Manure	... ..	...	3	3		3	
House Drainage	... ..	...	9	7		7	
Pigstyes	... ..	...	5	3		3	
Other Nuisances	... ..	...	44	27		27	
Factories and Workshops	... ..	...	24	6		6	
Public Health Slaughter House and Meat Regulation Order	... ..	...	62				
			358	69	11	69	
Houses disinfected	... ..	...	32				
Schools	... ..	...	4				
Samples of Water submitted for Analysis	... ..	...	27	9			
			421	78	11	69	
TOTALS...			421	78	11	69	

*Demolished.

1.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	55
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...			44
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...			2
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-headings) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	15
5.	Remedy of defects without service of formal notice. Remedy of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	15
6.	Action under Statutory Powers—				
(a)	Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1919.				
(1)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	7
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—				
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	15
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners				Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	...	...	...	2
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.				
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied				
	(a) By Owner	...	...	...	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners				Nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1919.				
(1)	Number of representations made with a view to making Closing Orders	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	2
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	2
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	2

E. KITNEY,
Sanitary Inspector.

